

APRIL 1975

Letters

# CIA sub recovery a fiasco

To the Editor:

The partial recovery of a Soviet submarine, "Project Jennifer," which you described as "brilliant" and "daring," was in fact a \$350-million fiasco.

The same sum could have bought ten modern destroyers or 700 tanks or 20 advanced fighters for our national security.

Or if human security was considered, the sum could provide a quarter of a million welfare families with an additional \$100 a month for a year.

Not only was the potential information to be gained at best marginal (a long out-of-date code book and an obsolete missile delivery system) but the entire affair raises questions that remain to be answered.

Was the potential information worth spending such a huge sum or was the project conceived and undertaken to mute growing criticism of the CIA's intelligence activities?

Why was the CIA involved at all in a purely naval matter; couldn't the Navy build and operate the ship by itself?

Who in the government knew or approved of the project? Which congressional agencies approved the spending and did they critically examine professional naval officers' estimates of the project's value?

Exactly how much does this nation waste each year on similar extravagant technological failures?

What is the relationship between Howard Hughes and the CIA?

Did the agency subsidize him at great cost to build a ship which can be only used for a few special missions and then allow him to keep it for his own deep-mining interests?

The unfolding story of the CIA's waste, blunders and criminal activity clearly indicate that the agency is an embarrassment to the government, both at home and abroad.

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